

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 23 of Page 5 as follows:

The operation panel unit 210 and the slave devices 290a to 290n are connected to the main controller 270 through an I²C₁ bus, which is a serial bus. The operation panel unit 210 is provided with a key input part (not shown), which has a plurality of function keys for enabling users to select and set the functions supported by the image formation device 200, and a display part (not shown), for displaying operation states of the image formation device 200, according to the controls of the main controller 270, which will be described in greater detail below.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 18 of Page 7 as follows:

The master device 275 is authorized to use the ~~I²C~~ I²C bus, and controls the slave devices 290a to 290n connected through the I²C bus. The master device 275 sends various control signals to the slave devices 290a to 290n through the I²C bus, and accordingly, receives signals sent from the slave devices 290a to 290n, thereby enabling bilateral communications between the master device 275 and the slave devices 290a to 290n.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 of Page 10 as follows:

[[A,]]A description will now be presented with regard to the process for writing data from the master device 275 to the slave devices 290a to 290n with reference to Fig. 3b.